

Message Text

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USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, NATO, MBFR, US, GW

SUBJECT: MBFR: US-FRG CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON

REF: STATE 211141

1. EMBOFF MET WITH FONOFF MBFR DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR RUTH TO OBTAIN HIS REACTION TO THAT PART OF THE SEPT 26-27 US-FRG POLITICAL-MILITARY CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON WHICH CONCERNED MBFR. RUTH MENTIONED BRIEFLY THAT RE-CATEGORIZATION, DATA EXCHANGE, FIXED PERIOD OF TIME, FORM OF THE AGREEMENT AND PHASING HAD BEEN COVERED. HE NOTED THE DIVERGENCE OF VIEW BETWEEN THE U.S. AND FRG ON MOST QUESTIONS WAS NOT GREAT. HOWEVER, ON THE ROLE OF AIR MANPOWER IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, RUTH REEMPHASIZED THE POINT REPORTED PREVIOUSLY THAT THE FRG HAS SERIOUS RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF WITHDRAWALS OR REDUCTIONS. HE SAID THERE IS NO PROBLEM CONSIDERING INCLUSION OF AIR MANPOWER IN A "NO INCREASE" COMMITMENT AS A NON-CIRCUMVENTION MEASURE. BUT RUTH POINTED OUT THAT HIS GOVERNMENT IS DECIDEDLY SKEPTICAL ABOUT AND OPPOSED TO AIR MANPOWER REDUCTIONS THEMSELVES.

2. RUTH ADVANCED THREE ARGUMENTS, PRESUMABLY ALL OF WHICH
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WERE ALSO MADE IN WASHINGTON LAST WEEK. THE FIRST WAS

THE QUALITATIVE ARGUMENT, I.E., REDUCTION OF AIR FORCE MANPOWER WOULD HAVE AN EVEN MORE DELETERIOUS EFFECT ON THE COMBAT CAPABILITY OF NATO COUNTRIES BECAUSE OF THE MORE HIGHLY TRAINED AND SPECIALIZED NATURE OF AIR MANPOWER AS OPPOSED TO GROUND FORCES. HE SAID IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR THE FRG TO CONTEMPLATE REDUCING ITS AIR FORCE. RUTH BELIEVES THE MODALITIES OF ANY SUCH PROPOSED REDUCTION WOULD HAVE TO RECEIVE THE MOST CAREFUL SCRUTINY BEFOREHAND. SECOND, RUTH STATED IT MADE MORE SENSE TO CONTINUE TO FOCUS ON GROUND FORCE REDUCTIONS IN CENTRAL EUROPE SINCE THE MAJOR DISPARITY EXISTED THERE. THIRD, WHILE NOT OPPOSING THE INTRODUCTION OF OPTION III PER SE, RUTH SAID THAT ITS NEGOTIATING EFFECT WOULD PROBABLY BE DIMINISHED IF AIRFORCE WITHDRWALS WERE DISCUSSED BEFORE NUCLEAR ELEMENTS. RUTH'S MAIN CONCERN ON THIS THIRD POINT SEEMED TO BE ONE OF TIMING.

3. RUTH ALSO VOICED CONCERN ABOUT THE U.S. POSITION TO TAKE REDUCTIONS BY UNITS RATHER THAN BY A THINNING OUT OF PERSONNEL. HE SAID HIS GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE PREJUDICIAL EFFECT WHICH UNIT REDUCTIONS COULD HAVE ON THE FRG. WHILE ACCEPTING THE U.S. POINT THAT THE MODALITIES OF UNIT REDUCTIONS WOULD BE SIMPLIFIED, RUTH SAID THE FRG STILL PREFERS A THINNING OUT OR CADREING IN CONJUNCTION WITH ANY REDUCTION WHICH THE BUNDESWEHR MIGHT TAKE.

4. RUTH WAS VERY BUSY TODAY PREPARING INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE FRG NATO MISSION. PRESUMABLY THE POINTS COVERED ABOVE WILL SURFACE IN BRUSSELS AND VIENNA WHEN THE USG INITIATES DISCUSSION OF THESE QUESTIONS.
HILLENBRAND

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